

founding and current Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts where he oversees eight academic divisions: The School of Music, School of Art, School of Dance, School of Theater, Arts Management Master's Program, Film and Video Studies Program, Computer Game Design Program and the Potomac Arts Academy.

Dean Reeder manages two regional art centers: the Center for the Arts in Fairfax as well as the Hylton Performing Arts Center. He also serves as the Co-Director of George Mason's Confucius Institute, a partnership between Mason and the Beijing Language and Cultural University.

In the midst of his demanding schedule, Reeder finds the time to teach an Arts Management course, hold the distinguished honor of the Eminent Scholar's Heritage Chairman in Arts and Cultural Criticism, and serve on two boards: United Way of the National Capital Region and CEO Forum of Prince William.

Reeder spent eight years as the leading operatic tenor engaged by the Zurich, Switzerland Opera Company. From 1993 to 1997, Reeder was President of the Saint Louis Conservatory of Music, followed by six years as the Education Director of the Levine School of Music located in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining George Mason, Reeder served as Vice President and General Manager of the Washington Performing Arts Society and two years with the Sallie Mae Corporation as the Founding Director of the Sallie Mae Trust for Education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Dean Bill Reeder as a prominent figure in Greater Prince William and tireless champion of arts education.

HONORING BLUE SPRINGS SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Blue Springs South High School football team. This is a group of very special young men who have exemplified the finest qualities of teamwork, devotion and sportsmanship by taking an active part in the classroom and on the field. These Jaguars relentlessly pursued their goal and were rewarded with their third state football title, as well as having a perfect 14–0 season.

The Blue Springs South Jaguars defeated the defending champions, Christian Brothers College, 37–28 in the Missouri Class Six state championship. Senior Adam Cofield managed to score an astounding four times. The work and effort these young men have persevered through over the years has not only earned them numerous honors on and off the field, but also the respect of their families, classmates, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the undefeated Blue Springs South High School football team for their accomplishments on the field and for their efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Missouri Class Six state champions.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE- LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA- TIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the PATH Act. While this is not a perfect bill, I join with the President in supporting this legislation as it represents clear progress for the American people. This legislation will permanently continue critical tax breaks to aid children and working families. It will permanently extend key provisions like the R&D tax credit and Section 179 expensing that will help our small businesses and manufacturers grow jobs and strengthen the economy. This bipartisan bill moves us forward as a nation both in terms of the benefits it provides and the signal it sends that it is possible for Congress to break the gridlock that has unfortunately engulfed Washington for too long.

I am particularly proud that the permanent extension of the R&D tax credit that I sponsored along with Chairman KEVIN BRADY was included in this legislation. The R&D tax credit is a driver of innovation and economic growth, and making it permanent will provide the certainty American companies need to make the long-term investments in our nation and in our workers for technologies that will keep our global economic edge. The R&D credit, along with a permanent extension of the Section 179 expensing credit, will give businesses in Connecticut and across the country the stability they need in the tax code to move our economy forward.

For children and working families, this legislation also offers a permanent extension of critical tax credits. The permanent extension of the Recovery Act enhancements of the EITC and CTC credits as well as the AOTC will ensure millions of working families across the country will continue to receive well-deserved tax breaks. Without this extension, by 2018, over 50 million individuals would have lost part or all of their credits. In Connecticut, 141,000 children in 42,000 families would lose access to part or all of their EITC or CTC credits. These provisions are absolutely critical and without them, I would not have been able to support this agreement. I wholeheartedly agree with my colleagues who have argued that the CTC should be indexed for inflation and while it is unfortunate that indexing is not included in this agreement, I will continue to fight for its inclusion on bills moving forward.

In addition, this bill includes other important provisions, including a permanent extension of a deduction for teachers who purchase supplies for their classrooms as well as critical charitable provisions such as a credit for the donation of food inventory and a provision that allows for tax-free distributions from IRAs for charitable purposes. It also incorporates other bills that will help with economic development, like the New Markets Tax credit, the low income housing tax credit, and legislation ensuring tax relief for another year for homeowners who have had part of their mortgage debt forgiven.

Finally, I want to thank the negotiators for including a bill that I co-authored with Rep.

SAM JOHNSON—the Wrongful Convictions Tax Relief Act, which ensures that compensation awards received by those who were wrongfully accused are not subjected to federal taxes on their awards. I first introduced the bill with Mr. JOHNSON in 2007 following the exoneration of James Tillman in Connecticut. I was proud to co-author this bill with Mr. JOHNSON, a true American hero, which rights a tremendous wrong in the tax code. Individuals who have been wrongfully accused have already suffered enough, so the notion that they would be taxed on the awards they receive as a result of their wrongful imprisonment is unconscionable. Once again, I thank the negotiators for including this common-sense bill in this package.

On the whole, this bill will provide tremendous benefits for children, working families, and economic growth in our country. I support this bill and look forward to its passage.

LONG BEACH LOSES LEGEND, MARILYN GREEN

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, it is with considerable sadness and a profound sense of loss that I report that the Long Beach community lost a dear friend and a dedicated public servant on the passing of Marilyn Green on October 29, 2015. Marilyn—with long-time professional partner Dick Cantrell—founded the law firm of Cantrell Green—now Cantrell Green Pekich Cruz & McCort—in 1971.

Marilyn was also the heart and soul of the progressive movement in Long Beach. She was a advocate, mentor, and friend to several generations of progressive leaders in Long Beach. I count myself lucky to have had her friendship and counsel over the years.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Marilyn eventually made her way to Stanford Law School. While attending as one of only two female students in her class, she met and married journalist Terence Green.

Determined to finish what she started, she sat for the California Bar exam in 1951 and was admitted to practice law in January, 1952, just one month before her first son, Alan, was born. She used to recall how odd it felt walking to take her oath while almost 9 months pregnant.

Terry's job brought them to Playa del Rey and, eventually, to the Long Beach area that would become their home for well over 50 years.

Like many women of her generation, Marilyn found herself unwelcome in many law firms due to her gender and was limited to family law practice. Knowing it was a matter of time before she found the right job, she settled into family law. She used to joke that, as a young lawyer, she had no idea how to create a safe exit strategy while interviewing a less-than-savory character. During one such interview, she decided "the case was much too complicated" and referred the person to the FBI. She later told us "From then on, I decided to keep the FBI's number in my top drawer, but think I certainly wore out my welcome."

Marilyn joined the prestigious Levy & Van Bourg firm as an applicant's attorney in Workers' Compensation in the late 1960s early 1970s.